

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend Claims 1-3, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A form processing device for reading a field data file ~~storing which stores~~ information corresponding to data to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form, and for overlaying the data corresponding to the information stored in the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, the form processing device comprising:

first determination means for determining, based on field definition information which defines each of the plurality of fields, ~~whether a field associated with the information stored in the field data file~~ each of the fields is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid, wherein the field definition information is different for the field data file;

second determination means for determining, when said first determination means determines that ~~the field associated with the information stored in the field data file~~ is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid, whether the information stored in the field data file is URL data; and

overlaying means for downloading the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the field, when said second determination means determines that the information stored in the field data file is the URL data.

2. (Currently Amended) A form processing method for reading a field data file ~~storing which stores~~ information corresponding to data to be overlaid onto each of a plurality

of fields in a form, and overlaying the data corresponding to the information stored in the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, the form processing method comprising:

a first determination step of determining, based on field definition information which defines each of the plurality of fields, ~~whether a field associated with the information stored in the field data file~~ each of the fields is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid, wherein the field definition information is different from the field data file;

a second determination step of determining, when it is determined in said first determination step that ~~the field associated with the information stored in the field data file~~ is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid, whether the information stored in the field data file is URL data; and

an overlaying step of downloading the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the field, when it is determined in said second determination step that the information stored in the field data file is the URL data.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a form processing method of reading a field data file storing which stores information corresponding to data to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form, and overlaying the data corresponding to the information stored in the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, wherein the method comprises:

a first determination step of determining, based on field definition information which defines each of the plurality of fields, ~~whether a field associated with the information stored in the field data file~~ each of the fields is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid, wherein the field definition information is different from the field data file;

a second determination step of determining, when it is determined in said first determination step that the field-associated with the information stored in the field data file is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid, whether the information stored in the field data file is URL data; and

an overlaying step of downloading the external file from a network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the field, when it is determined in said second determination step that the information stored in the field data file is the URL data.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:

a storing step of storing the external file, downloaded from the network server based on the URL data, into a local drive in association with the URL data,

wherein said overlaying step includes downloading the external file from the network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the field associated with the information stored in the field data file, when it is determined in said second determination step that the information stored in the field data file is the URL data and the URL data does not correspond to a URL of the external file stored in said storing step.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 4, wherein said overlaying step includes downloading the external file from the network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the field associated with the information stored in the field data file, when it is determined in said second determination step that a time stamp of the external file stored at said storing step is older than a time stamp of the external file in the network server, even if the information stored in the field data file is the URL data and the URL data corresponds to a URL of the external file stored in said storing step.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 4, wherein said overlaying step includes reading the external file stored in said storing step and overlaying the external file onto the field of the form, when it is determined in said second determination step that the information stored in the field data file is the URL data and the URL data corresponds to a URL of the external file stored in said storing step, and a time stamp of the external file stored in said storing step is not older than a time stamp of the external file in the network server.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 5, wherein, if an external file identical to the downloaded external file is already stored in the local drive, said storing step includes deleting the external file already stored and storing the downloaded external file in the local drive.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 4, wherein said storing step includes storing the downloaded external file in the local drive if the downloaded external file is smaller than a predetermined file capacity.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 4, wherein said storing step includes deleting an external file stored in the local drive if a file capacity of the downloaded external file is larger than a free space of the local drive.

10. (Cancelled)